

Finally the Tuskegee Airmen Receive the Honor and Recognition They Have Long Deserved

More than 60 years after distinguishing themselves in war, the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor that Congress can bestow on civilians. At a ceremony held March 29 in the Capitol Rotunda, President George W. Bush gave the keynote address, and former secretary of state and retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell lauded the airmen for paving the way for him. "I thank you for what you have done for African Americans, but more, I thank you for what you have done for Americans," Powell told the filled-to-overflowing gathering.

From 1942 through 1946, 994 black fighter and bomber pilots were trained at the segregated Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. More than 400 served in combat overseas, flying patrol and strafing missions and serving as bomber escorts from bases in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. At a time when it was widely believed that blacks could not successfully become pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen trained in a segregated facility because they were not allowed to do so or to see combat with their white colleagues. They continued to face racial discrimination at home after helping to defeat fascism abroad.

The ceremony drew more than 300 of the original Tuskegee Airmen. After defending the nation with distinction in Europe, the airmen fought racism at home. "Even the Nazis asked why they would fight for a country that treated them unfairly," President Bush said. "I would like to offer a gesture to help atone for all the unreturned salutes and unforgivable indignities." Bush then saluted the airmen, who rose to return the salute as the crowd burst into thunderous applause.

"Nobody—white or black—in this country can understand," Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) told the crowd, "how God has given you so much courage, from a nation that has rejected you because of your color, said you couldn't fight, said you couldn't fly, said you just weren't worthy—and you had to go out there and prove to them just how wrong they were." About 300 veterans of the storied all-black unit, their wives, widows and family attended the ceremony, which was described as the largest of its kind to take place in the Capitol Rotunda.

Capt. Roscow Brown, who shot down the first German pilot in the war, thanked President Bush and said, "We are so proud today, and I believe America is proud today."

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Tracy Allen, son of Tuskegee veteran William Gray, 76, said both he and his father felt honored to make the trip from their homes in Texas to Washington. "It's been a long time coming, and to have my father honored like this brings tears to my eyes," he said. "He doesn't talk about this stuff a lot, but he'll probably be more at rest."

Charles E. McGee, 87, was an engineering student at the University of Illinois as World War II approached. He and others in the all-black 332d Fighter Group had the tails of their planes painted the distinctive red that would make them the famous Red Tails. He went on to fly 136 missions—he said white fighter pilots usually flew about 50. He flew 100 missions during the Korean War and 173 in Vietnam. The reason: Although the military was by then happy to have black pilots, he said, "the airlines weren't ready."

The medals for the airmen, the largest group to receive the honor, grew out of legislation promoted by Rep. Rangel and Sen. Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.). "This day means that we have recognition at the national level, even 60 years later, that we accomplished something important," said William Broadwater, 81, a bombardier and former president of the airmen's group.

George Washington was the first individual to be awarded a Congressional Medal in 1776. Since then, more than 300 medals have been awarded. The Smithsonian Institution will place the Tuskegee medal on display, while individual airmen will receive bronze replicas.

Ron Brewington, national public relations officer for Tuskegee Airmen Inc. said, "This is the most wonderful day in the history of the Tuskegee Airmen. We're very thankful."

Lee Archer, 88, the only African American to be designated a flying ace in World War II, said he was frequently stopped by people on the street and thanked for his service. He was also told the nation could never repay the airmen for their sacrifices. After President Bush presented the medals, Archer said,

"My comment is: paid in full."

The IMUS Case Should Focus Attention on "The Coarsening of Our Culture"

Bowing to a national outcry and internal protest, CBS Radio decided to end Don Imus's morning program after he called the Rutgers University women's basketball team "nappy-headed hos."

There is a great deal of hypocrisy in this action. Columnist Jay Ambrose provided this assessment; "The president of CBS has explained that he fired Don Imus because of how 'deeply upset and revulsed' the network has been by the vile, on-air statements of the radio host about a group of fine young women, and you will excuse me while I roll on the floor laughing at the hypocrisy. Don Imus has been saying mean, bigoted things about women, gays, Jews, blacks and others for years now, and CBS didn't give a hoot. Neither did

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advertisers or guests. The advertisers were getting a good return on their investment. CBS was pulling in an estimated 20 million a year in revenues and the guests were having their names, causes and agendas promoted in front of 10 million listeners. Imus's latest words... are not newly offensive. It is not as if he had previously been Mr. Decorum... He has long been a tasteless shock jock engaged in mass nastiness for the sake of attracting mass audiences, and he has been abetted by advertisers, networks and dozens of radio stations for the very simple reason that it meant money in the bank."

What changed, argues Ambrose, is not that the Imus comment "led a conscience-stricken CBS to contemplate 'the effect language like this has on our young people,' in words of the CBS president, but that the comment began to get lots of attention, public anger began to grow, lots of people began to complain---and sponsors saw that their Imus ads could do them more harm than good. A show without advertisers is not what keeps network executives employed or gets them bonuses."

Washington Post columnist David. Broder noted that, "CBS Radio and MSNBC fired the millionaire talk-show host only after criticism of his foul-mouthed assault on the Rut-

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gers women's basketball team mounted and advertisers canceled their contracts. It showed no courage on the part of those organizations, which had put up with similar slurs for years and counted themselves lucky to have such a moneymaking act in their stable."

The hypocrisy, however, does not end with CBS and MSNBC. Among the loudest critics of Don Imus were Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. In fact, Imus chose Al Sharpton's radio program as the place to extend his apologies for his remarks. Yet, Sharpton, Jackson and too many other black leaders seem offended by racist and sexist remarks only when they come from white spokesmen. When they emanate from blacks, silence has been their response.

Rap and hip-hop music, promoted by black radio stations around the country, repeatedly describes black women in a manner as offensive,

if not more so, than that used by Don Imus. Women are degraded as "whores" and "bitches." Violence, murder and self-hatred are marketed as true blackness---authentic black identity.

It is rare indeed to hear criticism of this music. Comedian Bill Cosby, speaking to a Milwaukee audience about rap music, asked how many of the women in the audience considered themselves "bitches and hos." When no one raised a hand, Cosby asked, "If you are not a bitch or a ho, why do you dance to that music." Cosby said that the result is rap filling radio and television with distorted images of black people that have nothing to do with a history self-determination and pride." In order for hip-hop, with all that misogyny

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and gangster violence and ‘don’t study,’ to exist you’ve got to know nothing about history, struggle, what it takes to get ahead.”

In his book “Enough,” Juan Williams writes that, “The consequence of black leaders failing to speak out against the corruption of rap...resulted in real damage to the most vulnerable of black America---poor children, boys and girls, often from broken homes. As a group, they were desperately searching for black pride in the sea of images being thrown at them on TV, on the radio, on the Internet, and in advertising. What those children found was a larger-than-life rapper who was materialistic, sexist, and violent, and used the word nigger as a casual description of all black people. It was a musical minstrel show that would have been a familiar delight to nineteenth century slave owners. In fact, there are similarities between the economics of slavery and the modern rap industry. Cheap labor, slaves, made it possible for the Southern plantation to make money. All that was required was silent assent to a hellish compromise with the obvious immorality of slavery by the politicians, the religious leaders, the bankers, and the newspaper editors. Cosby is particularly critical of the New York Times for a ‘liberal, patronizing attitude’ toward black culture in which they promote hip-hop to show ‘they are so cool’ but fail to write about its negative impact on the black community.”

Occasionally, black critics of rap and hip-hop have emerged. The late C. Delores Tucker led a crusade against such music. Dr. William C. Banfield, head of the American Cultural Studies program at the University of St. Thomas, once said of rappers: “They are the biggest sellouts of all time because they allow the white media structure to lessen the potential of a balanced picture of black people in contemporary American cultural projection.” Harry Belafonte, the singer, said much the same when he described rappers as “caught in a trick bag because it’s a way to make unconscionable sums of money and a way to absent yourself from any sense of moral responsibility.”

These, sadly, are isolated voices. The black churches have been largely silent, as have the major civil rights organizations. Critics such as Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, eager to pounce on a Don Imus, are indifferent to the racism and sexism of black rappers and comedians. Conservative writer Michelle Malkin posted on her Web site several videos from artists currently on the Billboard Hot Rap Tracks chart, including Mims, R. Kelly and Bow Wow. Language resembling that used by Don Imus figured in each clip, prompting Malkin to ask whether Imus critics such as Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson are “truly committed to cleaning up cultural pollution that demeans women and perpetuates racial epithets.”

Don Imus has ignited a useful national debate. It is time for the leaders of the black community to enter that debate and use the same standard in assessing the lyrics of rap and hip-hop songs as they do the words of white shock jocks.”

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The Duke Lacrosse Players and the Need for Tort Reform

In April, North Carolina's attorney general declared that three former Duke University lacrosse players accused of sexually assaulting a stripper were innocent of all charges, ending a prosecution that provoked bitter debate over race, class and the tactics of the Durham County district attorney.

The attorney general said the players had been wrongly accused by an "unchecked" and "over-reaching" district attorney who had ignored contradictory evidence and instead relied on the stripper's "faulty and unreliable" accusations.

"We believe that these cases were the result of a tragic rush to accuse and a failure to verify serious allegations," said Attorney General Roy A. Cooper. Discussing the role of District Attorney Michael Nifong, Thomas Sowell writes that, "... it finally came out in court...that the DNA samples collected ...contained DNA from other men--- but none from the Duke lacrosse players accused of raping her. The DNA testing laboratory's chief testified in court under oath that he and Mr. Nifong knew this and kept it secret ...How about a statement afterward by Mr. Nifong that he didn't say anything about this publicly because he was trying to avoid dragging the names of the Duke lacrosse players through the mud! He not only denounced them, they were paraded in handcuffs in front of the national media."

Far more is involved in this case, Sowell argues, than the misdeeds of one district attorney. "There is a segment of the black community --- a small segment, we can hope--that figures it is payback time for all the black men who have been railroaded to jail on trumped-up charges involving the rape of white women. The local branch of the NAACP, an organization that has fought such injustices in times past, has thrown its weight behind trying to railroad three white students, who were not even born when these other injustices occurred. Winston Churchill once said, 'If the past sits in judgment on the present, the future will be lost.' Nowhere is that truer than when dealing with the explosive mixture of race and politics."

It was not only some black organizations and spokesmen who acted badly in this case. Eighty eight Duke University professors signed an ad vowing to "turn up the volume" against the falsely accused men. The New York Times, together with other leading newspapers advanced the hoax on its front page. New York Post columnist Andrea Peyser reports that, "... the Times on August 25 affected an air of Timesian authority in a damning article, spoon-fed by DA Nifong. It tried to put to rest some of the alarming inconsistencies in the accuser's story about the night she was "attacked." 'While there are big weaknesses in Mr. Nifong's case, there is also a body of evidence to support his decision to take the matter to a jury,' quoted the Times And, 'The full files, reviewed by The New York Times, contain evidence stronger than that highlighted by the defense.' Will the Times make reparations now? But there is no repairing three damaged lives. And no way to restore the good names

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of genuine rape victims, who will never get the undivided attention of a crew of characters who don't give a damn about women, men or the truth. For shame."

A year ago, there was a lynch mob atmosphere against the accused students. Duke suspended the students when charges were filed, cancelled the entire remaining schedule of the lacrosse team for which they played, and got rid of the coach. Former Princeton University President William Bowen---a critic of college athletics ---and the head of the local NAACP were called in to issue a report, which complained that Duke had not acted quickly enough. Now, it is clear that a tragic miscarriage of justice has occurred. Much was made of the fact that these Duke students came from affluent families. If they did not have the resources to defend themselves, it is not clear that they would have been exonerated.

By any standard, it is unfair to ask those who are unfairly charged with crimes to pay millions of dollars in legal fees to defend themselves. If the shoe were on the other foot---if those accused of wrong-doing had been poor and members of minority groups---the NAACP and others would be urging that all of the legal fees be paid by the accuser, be it the young lady or the District Attorney's office.

The time has come to adopt a policy of tort reform in which those who are charged with crimes and found innocent, are reimbursed for the expenses. This would help to prevent frivolous lawsuits and would bring a level of equity to our legal system which has long been absent.

When will we hear apologies from Duke University, and professors such as Houston Baker, who in a public letter called for "immediate dismissals of those principally responsible for the horrors of this spring moment at Duke, including the "coaches of the lacrosse team, the team itself and its players, and any other agents who were silenced or lied about" what happened. Baker demanded that this purge take place long before the case ever went to court. Duke President Richard Brodhead said of those accused lacrosse players that, "If they didn't do it, whatever they did is bad enough."

This case has shown us clearly the strange mindset which seems so prevalent in too many sectors of the academy and the media. The three young men who were falsely accused will see these charges follow them the rest of their lives. Where, as President Reagan's Secretary of Labor Ray Donovan once said when he was falsely accused of wrongdoing, do they go to get their reputations back? The rush to judgment in this case tells us a great deal about the "political correctness" which tends to dominate too much of the thinking in much of our society.

Hopefully, we will learn something from this extreme example of a legal system which appears out of control.

Africa Today

Africa's Leaders Fail to Confront Human Rights Abuse in Zimbabwe

Life in Zimbabwe has been deteriorating dramatically. Unemployment has soared past 80 per cent, the average salary has dipped below the poverty line and the annual rate of inflation is 1,730 per cent. Millions of people are suffering from severe shortages of water and food. Deaths from malnutrition, maternal mortality, HIV-AIDS, cholera, dysentery and other diseases are on the rise.

In March, a political rally was violently broken up by police. In testimony before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Douglas Gwatidzo, a general practitioner who specializes in emergency care in Harare, says that when he first learned of the crackdown, he expected patients to begin streaming into his clinic that day, a Sunday. But it was not until two days later that 64 bloodied protestors, including opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, came to the clinic where he practices in the custody of riot police. Gwatidzo described the injuries: severe blunt-force trauma to the abdomen, ruptured bowel, fractures and, extensive wounds from blows to the back, shoulders, buttocks and thighs. Twenty people were admitted to the hospital. Tsvangirai, 55, had a long gash in his scalp and was delirious from loss of blood.

A fresh desire to limit the 27-year dictatorial rule of Robert Mugabe has galvanized Zimbabweans and crosses party lines and ethnic division. "People think this is a defining year," Gwatidzo said, describing a spirit of defiance fueled by despair.

Sadly, African leaders have refused to confront the regime of Robert Mugabe. At an "emergency" summit in March of the Southern African Development Community in Tanzania, little was done. The next day, Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF nominated him to stand for president again next year. Mugabe then declared that Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, "deserved" his recent beating in police custody.

Speaking about the summit, he said that "We got full backing, not even one (leader) criticized our actions." The Wall Street Journal noted that, "The failure of African leadership on Zimbabwe reflects especially badly on South African President Thabo Mbeki and his government led by the African National Congress. In the kindest interpretation, Pretoria fears a failed state on its northern border. But by what measure is Zimbabwe not already a failure. Once stable, its economy is a wreck, with the world's highest inflation rate... Millions of Zimbabweans are fleeing, mostly to fast-growing South Africa, where they work as domestics, waiters and teachers." What has happened, in fact, in the Journal's view, is that, "... the South African leader has taken Mr. Mugabe's side in his war on Zimbabwe's democratic institutions, its press and opposition and its people. The thought of Zanu-PF losing power ... appears to make Mr. Mbeki especially uncomfortable. Seeing a former liberation movement ousted could give South Africans second thoughts about the inevitability of ANC rule... Having marshaled international outrage in its own struggle against apartheid, the ANC now says Zimbabwe's 'internal affairs' are its own problem and pushes 'constructive engagement,' using a phrase that was detested by the ANC when used to describe a less confrontational approach toward apartheid in South Africa. The double standard suggests the ANC cares more about holding power than standing up for the human rights of Africans."

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Presidential Vote in Nigeria is Called “Worst Ever”

The governing party's candidate for president of Nigeria, Umaru Yaro'Adua, easily won re-election in April. But his chief rivals for the office immediately rejected the results, and international observers said that the voting, which took place amid chaos, fraud and violence, was not credible. Vice President Atiku Abubakar, who ran as an opposition candidate, said that the election was the worst ever conducted in the country and that the results should be annulled. He declared that no free and fair election could be arranged by the electoral commission, which he accuses of partisanship toward the ruling party. “I have already rejected the election. They have no alternative than to cancel the election altogether,” he said. “What we have seen clearly proves our fears that it is the worst election that we have ever seen.”

The Washington-based International Republican Institute said the entire electoral process did not meet international standards. Its 59 observers identified numerous voting-day irregularities, including ballot box stuffing and phoney results. The Transition Monitoring Group, claiming 50,000 Nigerian observers, also called for the elections to be annulled, saying voting hadn't been held in many of the country's 36 states and had started very late in many others. A volatile period lies ahead as Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, largest oil producer and second largest economy, tries to hand power for the first time from one elected civilian government to another and seal its transition to democracy. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack called the contest “a flawed election, and in some instances, deeply flawed.” The election observer mission of the European Union blasted the conduct of the election and questioned the legitimacy of the results. Max van den Berg, chief observer for the EU mission, said that the elections “have fallen far short of basic international and regional standards for elections.”

There is concern that widespread unrest by citizens angry that they were not able to vote will prompt the military to step in and seize power to reestablish order. Nigeria has been ruled by its powerful military for much of its post colonial history, with only brief interludes of civilian rule in the 47 years since it won independence from Britain.

Analysts said the Nigerian vote was the starkest example of a worrying trend---even as African countries hold more elections, many of their citizens are steadily losing confidence in their democracies. “The picture in Africa is really mixed,” said Peter Lewis, director of the African Studies program at Johns Hopkins University, who was among the researchers who conducted the Afrobarometer survey of African public opinion. “Some countries have vibrant political scenes, while other countries go through the routine of elections but governance doesn't seem to improve.”

Crime In America

Violent Crime in Cities Shows Sharp Rise

Violent crime rose by double-digit percentages in cities across the country over the last two years, reversing the declines of the mid - to-late 1990s, according to a new report by a prominent national law enforcement association. While overall crime has been declining nationwide, police officials have been warning of a rise in murder, robbery and gun assaults since late 2005, particularly in midsize cities and the Midwest. Now, they say, two years of data indicates that the spike is more than an aberration.

“There are pockets of crime in this country that are astounding,” said Chuck Wexler, the executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, which released the report in March. “It’s gone under the radar screen, but it’s not if you are living on the north side of Minneapolis or the south side of Los Angeles or in Dorchester, Mass.” Local police departments blame several factors: the spread of methamphetamine use in some Midwestern and Western cities, gangs, high poverty and a record number of people being released from prison. But the biggest theme, they say is illegal procurement of guns and a willingness, even an eagerness, to settle disputes with weapons, particularly among young people.

“There’s a mentality among some people that they are living some really violent video game,” said Chris Magnus, the police chief in Richmond, California, north of San Francisco, where homicides rose 20 per cent and weapon assaults 65 per cent from 2004 to 2006.

Homicides increased 20 per cent or more in cities including Boston, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Hartford, Memphis and Orlando. Robberies went up more than 30 per cent in places including Detroit, Fort Wayne and Milwaukee. Aggravated assaults with weapons were up more than 30 per cent in cities like Boston, Sacramento, St. Louis and Rochester.

At the same time, citing Philadelphia’s homicide numbers and concerns about crime and violence statewide, state Rep. John Perzel announced in April that he would introduce legislation that would add 10,000 police throughout the state, including 1,345 in Philadelphia.

Monthly at the Lincoln Institute

At our monthly Lincoln Institute Breakfast Forums We have been hosting a series of speakers who are discussing their important work and sharing with us their ideas about the future of our country. Among our recent speakers were Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court and Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R Utah).

Our speaker in April was William A. Keyes, President of the Institute for Responsible Citizenship. Bill Keyes has had a long career spreading ideas of individual freedom, limited government and free enterprise. He has been a Capitol Hill staff member, a school choice activist, a staff member in the Reagan White House, founder of BLACK PAC and a staff member of the American Conservative Union. Five years ago he formed the Institute for Responsible Citizenship as a means to transmit the values he holds dear to a new generation of young black men.

Since 2003, the Institute has brought twelve exceptional minority male students for its two-summer programs at Georgetown University. This year, the number of students has been increased to twenty-four so that more young leaders can be positively impacted by the program.

“Each year,” Keyes notes, “our students arrive in Washington, D.C. for intensive internships, rigorous courses at Georgetown University, and leadership training. The classes give them the fundamental constitutional and economic principles they will need to be great leaders.” Students live on campus in university housing provided by the Institute during the Program. When not at work or in class, students are treated to intimate meetings with high-level government officials, which in past years have included Supreme Court Justices, the Secretary of State, U.S. Senators, Congressmen and business Leaders.

The academic program is a rigorous one. Throughout the month of June, the students read the U.S. Constitution, the Federalist Papers and The Antifederalist. They also read a 750-page volume of George Washington’s writings, edited by Professor Bill Allen. They spend three hours each day discussing the documents and the important ideas they contain.

Already the alumni of this program have assumed important positions. One is a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. One is working on the White House staff. One is in the clearance process for the FBI. One is raising money for his alma mater and two are working at the Institute for Responsible Citizenship.

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“In the future,” Bill Keyes declares, “our alumni will be living in many different parts of the country and working in many different types of jobs. I am confident that all of them will be good citizens, I am confident that they will stand up for what is great about America. And they will use their God-given talents to serve others.”

One example of a student in this program is Darius Graham. Darius attended Florida A&M University, where he had an almost perfect GPA. He was president of the Honor Student Association, president of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Student Body Attorney General, and captain of the nationally-ranked Mock Trial Team. A Florida magazine named Darius the Florida College Student of the Year. The Mayor of Tallahassee appointed Darius to serve on the Community Advisory Council and Governor Jeb Bush selected Darius to be a Gubernatorial Fellow. Darius created an organization called Books All Around, which collects books to create libraries in low income neighborhoods and public housing projects. For his work with this program, Darius was given a Points of Light Award and was selected for the 2006 ALL-USA College Academic Team by USA TODAY. He is now in his first year of law school at the University of California.

Bill Keyes reports that pages could be filled with stories such as the one about Darius Graham. Clearly, the Institute For Responsible Citizenship is playing an indispensable role in identifying and helping to train future black leaders.

Our speaker in May was Janice Rogers Brown, Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. She previously was an Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court, holding that post from May 2, 1996 until her appointment to the D.C. Circuit.

President George W. Bush nominated her to her current position in 2003. Her nomination, however, was stalled in the U.S. Senate for almost two years due to Democratic opposition. She began serving as a federal appellate court judge on June 8, 2005. She has been frequently mentioned as a possible Bush nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Brown is an Alabama sharecropper’s daughter who attended segregated schools as a child. She earned her B.A. from California State University in Sacramento in 1974 and her J.D. degree from the UCLA School of Law in 1977. In addition, she received an LL.M degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2004.

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Her legal career is a distinguished one. She was Deputy Legislative Counsel for the Office of Legislative Counsel in California from 1977 to 1979. She then spent eight years as Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal and Civil Divisions of the California Attorney General's Office. She was Deputy Secretary and General Counsel for California's Business, Transportation, and Housing Authority from 1987 to 1989 and a University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law Adjunct Professor from 1988 to 1989.

While on the California Supreme Court, in *Hi-Voltage Aire-Works Inc. v. City of San Jose*, Brown wrote the majority opinion overturning a program of racial set-asides adopted by the city of San Jose under the guise of community outreach. The opinion upheld an amendment to the California Constitution which banned "discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting." In another case, Brown dissented from an opinion striking down a parental consent law for abortions.

Judge Brown has a well deserved reputation as a libertarian. In a speech to the Federalist Society at the University of Chicago Law School in 2000, she lamented the triumph of "the collectivist impulse," in which capitalism receives "contemptuous tolerance but only for its capacity to feed the insatiable mouth of socialism." She complained that "where government moves in, community retreats, civil society disintegrates, and our ability to control our own destiny atrophies."

Janice Rogers Brown has a strict constuctionist track record, demonstrating her commitment to the constitutional principle of limited government. She believes that the power of all governments--federal, state and local--must be strictly construed in accordance with the constitutional protections of the unalienable individual rights to life, liberty and private property. As a constitutionalist, she has shown courage and boldness to adhere to the constitutional requirement that all people be governed equally. More important, perhaps, she has the strength of character and moral fiber to lead. We will be hearing a lot more from her--and about her in the future.